

March 6, 2022

**Testimony in OPPOSITION to HB 5295: An Act Concerning Agriculture Development and innovation.**

Dear Honorable Members of the Environment Committee:

As a CT voter, I strongly oppose HB 5295 (to develop the processing of rabbits for consumption). I do not want my tax dollars used to promote the killing of rabbits.

As you may know, public demand has forced many cosmetic companies to eliminate testing on rabbits, and many furriers no longer produce coats made from the pelts of rabbits. Additionally, laws have been passed that disallow sale of commercially bred rabbits in pet stores. A few years ago, when Whole Foods tried selling rabbit meat, vigorous public outcry resulted in the discontinuation of the sale of rabbit meat by Whole Foods and other stores.

The growing threat posed by emerging viruses that can cross the species barrier from animals to humans concerns me greatly. Connecticut's Department of Agriculture should be promoting plant-based products, including the expansion of plant-based proteins. This would help ensure a greater availability of safe and dependable protein sources.

Sincerely,  
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